

NEW RAPE CASE; NAB MAN ON TIP



TOPPLED RIG . . . Firemen fought fire and wind Thursday to keep flames confined to derrick after it toppled shortly after catching fire. Sparks carried in the stiff breeze ignited a nearby tree row, but firemen killed the blaze before flames reached an adjacent rabbitry.

Plan Chain Prayers For Civic Problems

Local citizens will try to solve the narcotics problem, a recent rape case, and many other civic problems through a chain prayer on World Day of Prayer, Feb. 20, announced Mrs. Paul Wenske, chairman.

At an hour to be announced later, chairmen of the project will give the signal by telephone, and minutes afterward, the entire city will join in an interlude of prayer. "We hope to enlist the cooperation of firms and factories in providing this short devotional period," Mrs. Wenske said.

Plans for the chain prayer and other activities of the World Day of Prayer were formulated by presidents of the mission societies of those churches affiliated with the Torrance Council of Churches at last Friday's meeting, held at the home of Mrs. Henske, wife of the pastor of the First Lutheran Church.

The kick-off prayer meeting will be held at the First Methodist Church at noon for an hour of planned devotions. Although open to all age groups, the services are planned primarily for business personnel, Mrs. Wenske said.

Climax of the day will be a community mass meeting at the Episcopal Church at 7:30 p.m. Dr. O. Garnitzka, evangelist from the Minneapolis Bible In-

Merchants Give \$700 Toward New Neon Sign

To help finance the purchase of a brilliant neon sign which will indicate the business district, a group of 28 merchants have each contributed \$25, Dale Isenberg, executive secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce said yesterday.

The sign, 9 by 18 feet, is to be erected on Western Ave. at Torrance Blvd. Total cost of the sign is \$1800, Isenberg said.

Faced with multi-colored, fog-piercing neon tubing, the sign will direct motorists to the business district of Torrance.

It will read: "Torrance, City of Industrial Opportunity, Business District."

Contributing to the fund so far are these local merchants and businessmen:

Levy's Department Store, Alena Jewelers, Universal Furniture, J. J. Newberry, Lawson Jewelers, National Home Appliance, Frank's Furniture, May Flower Dress Shop, Gery's Jewellers, The Gay Shop, Garsh Auto Supply, Trend O' Fashion Parish Stationers, Chest Furniture, Whittlesey Motors, Schultz and Pedham, Ford dealers; Torrance Cycle and Sports Shop, Paul's Chevrolet, Benard's Shoes, Town & County Television, Mc-Cown Drugs, Torrance Plumbing, Torrance Hardware, Albertson, Baker's Furniture, Squire Style Shoppe for Children, M. & M. Theaters, Dick Barton, Chrysler-Plymouth dealer.



SHE'LL DO . . . Really diving into the campaign of North American Aviation employees to raise funds in a single drive for all welfare and health organizations is Judy Lindeman, a North American secretary. Known as the DO Club, the group, which includes Torrance North American plant, contributed \$91,923 last year.

Flames, Aided By High Wind, Topple Derrick

Flames, eating away at the legs of an oil derrick like a beaver chawing on a tree, caused a rig to topple in a matter of minutes Thursday afternoon, setting fire to a nearby tree row, according to Fire Chief J. J. Benner.

The fire destroyed Well No. 3 belonging to the Pacific Western Oil Corp. and located about a block south of the intersection of Crenshaw and Sepulveda Bvds.

Firemen from headquarters company and Station No. 3 squelched the fire after two hours.

Sparks from a welder's torch ignited dry grass which in turn set fire to the rig. The welder said he did not notice the burning grass because he was wearing dark welder's glasses. He saw the rig blazing when he removed his goggles.

The fire was fanned by a high wind and although it threatened to destroy an adjacent rabbit ranch, firemen, aided by volunteers, confined the damage to the fallen derrick.

Kiwanis Study Group Plans Nature Trip

The Annual Nature Study Group of the Torrance Kiwanis Club has scheduled its next trip to Ojai Valley on Feb. 19-21, according to Dean L. Sears, chairman.

Flora and fauna of the region, reputed to be some of nature's rarest, will be sought by 35 members of the local service club who have indicated they will make the trip.

A number of the group intend to study the root growth of a grassy like substance found surrounding a number of holes in the earth located near the famous Ojai Valley Inn.

Some plan a search for deer in the area.

Evenings will be spent at a round table exchanging notes.

Four Qualify For Council Race Apr. 7

Residents of the Shoestring Strip, part of the 15th Councilmanic District of the City of Los Angeles, will elect a man to represent them from among four who have qualified for the primary election on April 7.

All from San Pedro, are: John S. Gibson, incumbent, 1604 Sunnyside Terrace; George W. Love, 140 22nd St., longshoreman; Edward S. Eyerson, 1463 Hamilton Ave., engineer; designer; Peter Sysak, 2916 Cabrillo Ave., businessman.

Mothers Net \$3600 For Polio

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TIPSY CITY OFFICIAL SKIPS WITH DOCUMENTS

Chairman Of Probe Attacked

All hell broke loose at a meeting of the Mayor's Alondra Park Fact-Finding Commission Wednesday night when in rapid order one of the commissioners:

1. Came to the meeting drunk.
2. Arrived 20 minutes late.
3. Ripped the chairman for not delaying the meeting for him.
4. Disappeared with two communications intended for the mayor.

The mayor, Mervin M. Schwab, as of late Saturday, still had not seen the two letters.

The five-man commission was appointed by the Mayor recently in a move to determine the best course of action for the city to take in regards to annexing the county-owned Alondra Park and El Camino College. Under the chairmanship of Earle Lloyd, planning commission consultant, four of the five men met on Jan. 14 to start probing for facts. Absent from the first meeting was the same commissioner who came late to the second meeting.

Sought by the commission was an opinion from the County Board of Supervisors and the trustees of El Camino College. Both agencies answered the commission's request in letters.

The second meeting of the commission was called for 6 p.m. Wednesday night. After delaying the meeting for 15 minutes while waiting for the missing commissioner to show up, Chairman Lloyd finally called the meeting to order and asked the two communications be read.

The letters were read with the resulting action being that they be sent to the mayor. As the meeting adjourned the missing commissioner showed up. He challenged the chairman for not holding the meeting until his arrival. He then asked for the two communications, pocketed them, and stormed out.

Asked for copies of the letter for publication, Lloyd excused himself, stating that the letters had not been returned.

On Saturday the mayor was still waiting for news of the commission's findings.

Meanwhile, the Torrance Herald acquired copies of the letter from the offices of Forrest Murdock, president of El Camino College, and from Supervisor Raymond V. Darby.

Public interest in the original issue, namely the annexation, and the subsequent developments warrant the publication of the two letters in their entirety.

Jan. 29, 1953

Mr. Earle E. Lloyd: In reply to your letter of Jan. 25, please be advised that I have a ruling from the city council which directly affects the proposed annexation of Alondra Park by the City of Torrance.

First, in 1951 the State Legislature amended two sections of the Government Code No. 35.311 and No. 35.313 which provides that this county should be given

(Continued on Page 2)



TALLY DIMES AND DOLLARS . . . Long after Thursday's Mothers March on Polio had ended, these workers tolled counting, auditing, and wrapping the \$3000 collected by the 250 PTA mothers. Drive is still \$3000 short of its goal.

Scout Sabbath To Be Observed

Boy Scouts in uniform will attend church services throughout the city today as the youth organization observes Boy Scout Sabbath, the opening rite in Boy Scout Week.

Ministers will pay tribute to their Scouts and leaders, and many churches will have special services dedicated to Scouting, local Scout officials said yesterday.

Wednesday will be uniform day, and all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Explorers of the area will wear their uniforms throughout the day in a show of Scout strength.

Throughout the day display, Scouting exhibitions, open-house celebrations, and unit parties will feature the week-long observance.

\$3000 Still Needed For March of Dimes

A cordon of mothers, aided by a few fathers, encircled the City of Torrance Thursday night as 250 campaigners marched against polio collecting \$3680.58 during the two-hour drive.

Such was the substance of a report tendered yesterday by Mrs. Clara A. Conner, March of Dimes chairman.

"We missed a few homes who attempted to signal our workers with a lighted porchlight. We are sorry, but we just didn't have enough workers to get to everyone," explained Mrs. A. B. Cowie, March of Mothers chairman.

Last year the March netted the Infantile Paralysis Foundation only \$2001.

The amount collected by the



TOMORROW'S THE DAY . . . Charming Anna Svensk rolls up her sleeve to urge Torrance residents to drop in at the Civic Auditorium between 3 and 7 p.m. when the Red Cross Bloodmobile will be collecting blood donations. Donors' blood will be credited in Korea and in "operation gamma globulin," the project to fight polio, according to Mrs. Mel Howard and Mrs. Don Hyde, co-chairmen of the drive.

Suspect Not Sunday Raper Police Told

A citizen's tip led to the arrest Friday evening of a 28-year old man who was booked by Torrance police on suspicion of statutory rape of a 13-year old girl.

Police found the man and the girl parked in a car in the oil fields south of Kettler Knolls.

In some ways, the man, Douglas James Shrun, of 4944 Imperial Highway, answered the description of the unknown raper of a 10-year old Torrance girl on Jan. 11. However, the 10-year old rape, victim said that Shrun was not the man who kidnaped and attacked her four weeks ago.

The 13-year old girl told Officer Jim Thompson the man had threatened her with bodily harm if she did not submit.

Sgt. D. C. Cook, who is investigating the case, reported that Shrun claims to have been blacked out and "doesn't remember a thing." Cook found a couple of beer bottles in the car.

Shrun's arrest followed a tip from a Kettler Knolls resident, who reported that a suspicious car had been parked in the rear of the 1800 block on Middlebrook road for several hours.

Permits Issued For 114 More No. Torr. Homes

Permits totalling \$1,114,000 were issued this week for the construction of 114 two-story homes to be erected by a Beverly Hills contractor in the vicinity of Crenshaw Blvd. and 177th St., according to James B. Dresser, building inspector.

The homes, to be constructed by the Heberg Construction Co. of 8845 W. Olympic Blvd., will be erected east of Crenshaw Blvd. to Casimir Ave. between 177th St. and 182nd St.

Square footage of the homes will average approximately 1175 feet.

Pastor at Convocation

Rev. Cecil J. England, pastor of the First Christian Church, was among those who registered for the fifth annual Ministers Convocation at the University of Southern California, Feb. 5-6.

Two Local Accountants Pass CPA Examinations

Two Torrance men are among the 172 who passed the November examination for certified public accountant, the State Board of Accountancy announced this week.

Successfully completing the test were 25-year-old Philip A. Lisman, 1503 Post Ave., a graduate of UCLA; and a graduate of Southwestern University, Rudolph G. Rayes, 35, 4302 W. 177th St.

Mother of Four Completes School Training, Gets Teaching Job

It's always the busiest people who find time to do a little more!

Not many mothers with four children ranging from 4 to 11 years old could find time or inclination to complete a college course for teaching credentials, but one Torrance woman has done just that.

Mrs. Joan Donald, 1028 Crenshaw Blvd., received her credentials from Long Beach State College at the close of this se-

mester and will begin teaching the third grade at Fern Ave. School tomorrow.

In addition to receiving high scholarship rating and taking care of a home and Joan, 11, Kathleen, 8, James, 6, and Robert, 4, Mrs. Donald found time to be secretary of the student body and vice-president of the senior class.

"It was a challenge," she said, "and now I feel I've really accomplished something."